

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

May 20th 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

The words below are from the first news story. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *(Answers are in the appendix).*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) recovering	a) followed traced chase
	2) dramatic	b) weird unusual strange
	3) tracked	c) activities responses movements
	4) suspicious	d) acceptable allowed understandable
	5) investigating	e) looking into researching searching
	6) actions	f) exciting sudden unusual
	7) justified	g) getting better improving feeling healthy again

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Three people are in hospital after a police shooting.
2. ____ Police had been following an SUV that was behaving strangely.
3. ____ An elderly couple was killed by the escaping SUV.
4. ____ A police officer shot the driver of the SUV.
5. ____ An investigation into the actions of the police officer is now happening.

Discussion Question: Do you think there should be an investigation whenever a police officer shoots someone? Why or why not?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

post (to put on the internet)	sympathy (to share sad feelings)	test-drive
widow (woman whose husband died)	aviation (to do with airplanes)	sake (benefit)
beyond (outside the limits)	recognition (identification)	public (society)

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

lead to – to cause

fall apart – to break down; to become emotionally unstable

1. After the wedding, the photographer will _____ the photos on her blog so the _____ can view the beautiful pictures.
2. If you want to buy a new car you should take it for a _____ first.
3. My brother has always wanted a job in _____ because he enjoys traveling.
4. When we go to a funeral we express our _____ to the family.
5. After my father died my mother was a _____ raising 3 kids on her own.
6. My mother gave up many things for the _____ of her children.
7. Some subjects, like biochemistry, are _____ my understanding.
8. Police use past photos and medical records to help with _____ of a victim.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The murder of an Ontario man has led to _____.	a) public sadness and sympathy b) public anger and violence
2. Tim Bosma posted his pickup truck for sale online and _____.	a) took two men driving around the city for fun b) took a test-drive with two men
3. Bosma's widow is trying not to fall apart, _____.	a) for the benefit of the public b) for the sake of their daughter
4. Hamilton police say Bosma's _____, burned beyond recognition.	a) body was found this week b) truck was found this week
5. Dellen Millard, a 27-year-old man from Toronto, _____.	a) has been identified as a murder suspect. b) has been charged with first-degree murder.
6. Millard comes from a _____ aviation family.	a) well known b) unknown

Discussion Question

Have you ever used an online site to buy or sell something? How can you protect yourself when using these sites?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. astronaut	a) going back to where you started
	2. dizzy	b) a message sent on Twitter
	3. news conference	c) to search for new places and things
	4. returning	d) to feel like the world is spinning around you
	5. social media	e) a place where people work and stay (not on Earth)
	6. star	f) websites and other forms of online communication
	7. tweet	g) to play a guitar by stroking the cords
	8. strum	h) a person who travels into space
	9. (space) station	i) a meeting to speak to the media (radio and news)
	10. exploration	j) a famous person

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

banged-up – to be physically hurt; bruised

gone through the wringer – went in the washing machine (literally); to be in pain and feel very tired after being turned around and upside down

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who is Chris Hadfield?
2. How is Hadfield feeling now that he is back on Earth?
3. When did Hadfield hold a news conference from Houston?
4. Why did Hadfield become something of a media star while in space?
5. Will Hadfield continue to use social media?
6. What was Hadfield's goal?

Discussion Question

What are some things you would like to know about space? Would you like to visit the moon or another planet one day? Why?

Language Focus

Working with Pronouns

Last week we looked at pronouns. Remember, pronouns are small words that we use to replace nouns. After a noun is introduced in a sentence we can use a pronoun to refer to the noun so we do not keep repeating the same word/noun again and again.

Pronouns are divided into groups depending on their role in the sentence. There are subject pronouns, object pronouns, possessive pronoun, demonstrative pronouns, indefinite pronouns and reflexive pronouns. Look subject and possessive pronouns more carefully for this activity:

Subject pronouns – are used when the pronoun is the subject of the sentence.

- I, you, she, he, we, they, it

Possessive pronouns – show ownership

- my, your, his, her, its, our, their

Here are some sentences from our stories this week. Try to change the repeated (underlined) nouns with the correct pronouns to make the sentence shorter and easier to understand. Notice that without pronouns we have to repeat nouns often. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. 32-year-old Tim Bosma was killed after posting Tim Bosma's pickup truck for sale online and taking a test-drive with two men.
2. Tim Bosma's widow says Tim Bosma's widow is trying not to fall apart, for the sake of Tim Bosma and his widow's two-year-old daughter.
3. Millard comes from a well-known aviation family and set flying records when Millard was a teenager.
4. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield is back on earth and Chris Hadfield says Chris Hadfield's body is confused and banged-up after Chris Hadfield's five-month stay in space.
5. Chris Hadfield says Chris Hadfield is dizzy at times and that Chris Hadfield's body feels as though it's gone through the wringer.
6. During Chris Hadfield's stay in space, Hadfield became something of a media star. Chris Hadfield not only tweeted photos, Chris Hadfield also talked to schoolchildren, strummed Chris Hadfield's guitar and made videos about daily life on the station.
7. Chris Hadfield says Chris Hadfield's use of social media won't end with Chris Hadfield's return to Earth.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY 17 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for May 17 th .	0:00
Story 1	Two people are recovering in hospital after a dramatic shooting in northwest Calgary. Police officers had tracked a suspicious vehicle to a bank in Crowfoot Crossing. When they approached the SUV, the driver tried to escape by pulling onto the sidewalk. He hit an elderly couple, then stopped and backed over the woman again. That's when a police officer shot the driver. The woman and the suspect are both in hospital. Alberta's Serious Incident Response Team is now investigating whether the officer's actions were justified.	0:08
Story 2	The murder of an Ontario man has led to public sadness and sympathy. 32-year-old Tim Bosma was killed after posting his pickup truck for sale online and taking a test-drive with two men. His widow says she is trying not to fall apart, for the sake of their two-year-old daughter. Hamilton police say Bosma's body was found this week, burned beyond recognition. A Toronto man, 27-year-old Dellen Millard, has been charged with first-degree murder. Millard comes from a well-known aviation family and set flying records when he was a teenager.	0:48
Story 3	Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield is back on earth and he says his body is confused and banged-up after his five-month stay in space. He says he is dizzy at times and that his body feels as though it's gone through the wringer. Hadfield held a news conference from Houston Thursday just a few days after returning from the International Space Station. During his stay in space, Hadfield became something of a media star. He not only tweeted photos, he also talked to schoolchildren, strummed his guitar and made videos about daily life on the station. He says his use of social media won't end with his return to Earth. Hadfield says the goal was not to become famous -- but to teach people about space exploration.	01:29

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
g	1) recovering	a) followed traced chase
f	2) dramatic	b) weird unusual strange
a	3) tracked	c) activities responses movements
b	4) suspicious	d) acceptable allowed understandable
e	5) investigating	e) looking into researching searching
c	6) actions	f) exciting sudden unusual
d	7) justified	g) getting better improving feeling healthy again

Listening

1. False Three people are in hospital after a police shooting.
2. True Police had been following an SUV that was behaving strangely.
3. False An elderly couple was killed by the escaping SUV.
4. True A police officer shot the driver of the SUV.
5. True An investigation into the actions of the police officer is now happening.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. After the wedding the photographer will post the photos on her blog so the public can view the beautiful pictures.
2. If you want to buy a new car you should take it for a test-drive first.
3. My brother has always wanted a job in aviation because he enjoys traveling.
4. When we go to a funeral we express our sympathy to the family.
5. After my father died my mother was a widow raising 3 kids on her own.

6. My mother gave up many things for the sake of her children.
7. Some subjects, like biochemistry, are beyond my understanding.
8. Police use past photos and medical records to help with recognition of a victim.

Listening

1. The murder of an Ontario man has led to _____.	a) public sadness and sympathy b) public anger and confusion
2. Tim Bosma posted his pickup truck for sale online and _____.	a) took two men driving around the city b) took a test-drive with two men
3. Bosma's widow is trying not to fall apart, _____.	a) for the benefit of the public b) for the sake of their daughter
4. Hamilton police say Bosma's _____, burned beyond recognition.	a) body was found this week b) truck was found this week
5. Dellen Millard, a 27-year-old man from Toronto, _____.	a) has been identified as a murder suspect. b) has been charged with first-degree murder.
6. Millard comes from a _____ aviation family.	a) well known b) unknown

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
h	1. astronaut	a) going back to where you started
d	2. dizzy	b) a message sent on Twitter
i	3. news conference	c) to search for new places and things
a	4. returning	d) to feel like the world is spinning around you
f	5. social media	e) a place where people work and stay (not on Earth)
j	6. star	f) websites and other forms of online communication
b	7. tweet	g) to play a guitar by stroking the cords
g	8. strum	h) a person who travels into space
e	9. (space) station	i) a meeting to speak to the media (radio and news)
c	10. exploration	j) a famous person

Listening

1. Who is Chris Hadfield? *He is a Canadian astronaut who spent 5 months in space.*
2. How is Hadfield feeling now that he is back on Earth? *His body is confused and banged up. He feels dizzy and like his body has gone through the wringer.*
3. When did Hadfield hold a news conference from Houston? *He held a news conference on Thursday, just a few days after returning from the International Space Station.*

4. Why did Hadfield become something of a media star while in space? *He not only tweeted photos, he also talked to schoolchildren, strummed his guitar and made videos about daily life on the station.*
5. Will Hadfield continue to use social media? *No, he will continue to use social media.*
6. What was Hadfield's goal? *His goal was to teach people about space exploration.*

Language Focus

1. 32-year-old Tim Bosma was killed after posting **his** pickup truck for sale online and taking a test-drive with two men.
2. Tim Bosma's widow says **she** is trying not to fall apart, for the sake of **their** two-year-old daughter.
3. Millard comes from a well-known aviation family and set flying records when **he** was a teenager.
4. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield is back on earth and **he** says **his** body is confused and banged-up after **his** five-month stay in space.
5. **He** says **he** is dizzy at times and that **his** body feels as though it's gone through the wringer.
6. During **his** stay in space, Hadfield became something of a media star. **He** not only tweeted photos, **he** also talked to schoolchildren, strummed **his** guitar and made videos about daily life on the station.
7. **He** says **his** use of social media won't end with **his** return to Earth.